



DESIGN PRINCIPLE SUMMARY:

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

A defined neighborhood center connects transit to neighborhood destinations, provides quality public spaces, promotes a pedestrian friendly environment, emphasizes attractive architecture, incorporates a wide variety of land uses, and manages parking. All of these characteristics combine to create a functioning center of activity with a sense of place and opportunities for a diversity of community members.

CONCEPTS

A defined neighborhood center ...

- Evolves gradually to integrate essential design concepts into one defined physical area.
- Is not created through the efforts of one organization or development project.
- Is the center of community life that incorporates:
 - Orientation & Connectivity
 - Quality Public Realm & Amenities
 - Pedestrian-Friendly, Safe Environment
 - Attractive Architecture & Design
 - Mix of Uses
 - Parking Management
- Is unique to each neighborhood community and cannot be accomplished through a standard formula.



A healthy and vibrant neighborhood center creates a safe and fun place to walk, work, play, shop, and live.
Source: Washington Regional Network for Livable Communities

GUIDELINES

A vibrant neighborhood center is not the result of a planner's blueprint. It is a messy, complicated entity that can be influenced and guided over time, but not created overnight. Each design principle has been presented as a distinct concept with identifiable features; however, it is the overlap and relationships between all six basic principles that ultimately result in a complex, dynamic neighborhood center.

As the following guidelines demonstrate, to achieve the objectives of one design principle the core ideas of the remaining principles must be incorporated. For instance, you cannot develop a pedestrian-friendly, safe environment without providing a compact mix of uses and managing the presence of automobile travel.

A. Integrate the six design principles to create compact development around rail and bus transit:

1. CONNECTIVITY

A defined center must be connected to neighborhood destinations, different travel modes, and activity centers throughout the region.

2. QUALITY PUBLIC REALM & AMENITIES

A network of public spaces must be provided to create a sense of place and promote pedestrian activity.

3. PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY, SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The physical environment and land uses must promote walking and activity that deters crime.

4. ATTRACTIVE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

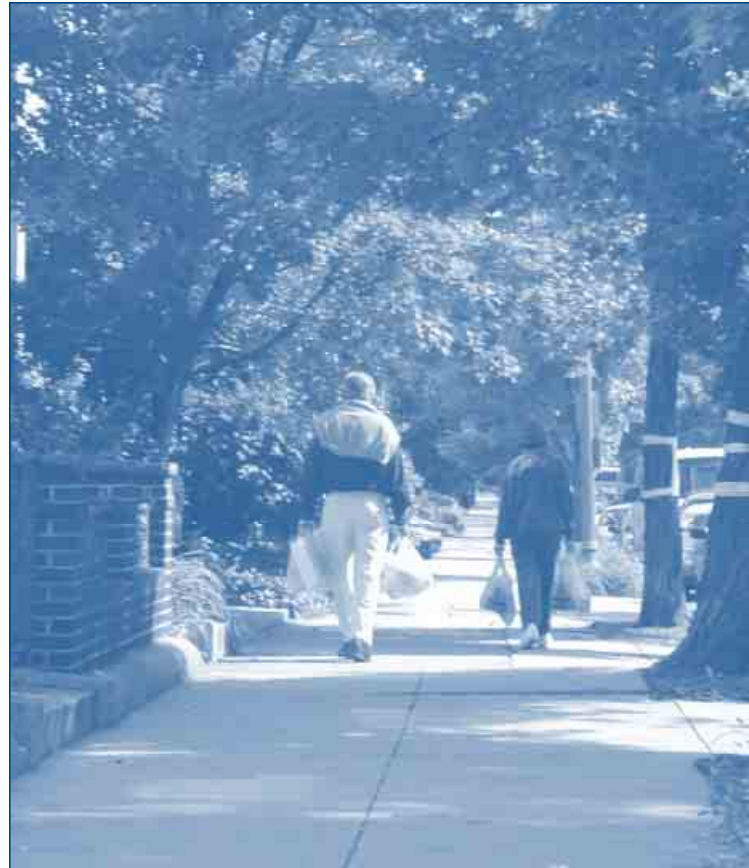
Quality design should integrate all components of a compact neighborhood to reflect one unified, attractive environment.

5. MIX OF USES

A variety and intensity of land use and activities should be provided within walking distance of transit facilities.

6. PARKING MANAGEMENT

Parking should be managed so that automobile access is balanced with transit, walking and bicycle travel.



A compact neighborhood center provides convenient services to neighborhood residents.
Source: Washington Regional Network

B. Focus efforts to create a pedestrian-friendly environment. A pedestrian-oriented neighborhood is a transit-oriented neighborhood because all transit riders are pedestrians at some point during their journey.

- Provide pedestrian access from transit facilities to many neighborhood destinations.
- Incorporate all elements and concepts required to develop a walkable community:
 - Connect pedestrian pathways to essential destinations.
 - Provide public spaces that promote walking and invite visitors to linger.
 - Provide compact mixed-use development oriented to sidewalks to generate pedestrian activity and define a vibrant, safe environment.
 - Emphasize architecture and design that integrates old and new, large and small development to create a pedestrian scaled environment.
 - Create an environment that emphasizes walking, cycling and transit use over automobile use by managing parking and traffic to reduce the dominance of automobile travel.

C. As a community, establish a plan for gradually incorporating all six design principles into a designated transit area.

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